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Letter dated 23 October 2002 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, and in the context of cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the League of Arab States on the occasion of United Nations Day, 24 October 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 23 October 2002 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the League of Arab States on the occasion of United Nations Day, 24 October 2002

The celebration of United Nations Day coincides with the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 which greatly altered the balance of power and left a new reality and new challenges which obliged the international community to review and adjust many of the traditional policies and mechanisms for dealing with world affairs.

The combating of terrorism is an international responsibility which no State, however great its efforts, can take upon itself with a view to eliminating terrorism. Moreover, any attempt to link terrorism with a particular nation, religion or civilization will serve to intensify political and cultural differences, transforming them into a clash of civilizations. That being so, the United Nations remains the ideal forum for the coordination of efforts and for the analysis and study of this phenomenon, so as to ascertain its causes and dimensions and devise infrastructures and measures to ensure its elimination. The United Nations also remains the body that is empowered to define responsibilities and determine international obligations in this area. It is undeniable that the United Nations has striven diligently through its numerous organs to address this phenomenon and has succeeded in creating an alliance and an international solidarity unprecedented in the history of the Organization.

The Arab States, which were quick to participate in the international efforts by joining this international alliance to combat terrorism, just as they were quick to participate earlier, in 1945, in establishing the United Nations, out of a belief in the purposes and principles for which it was set up, still feel that the United Nations remains very far from addressing the issues and challenges which have become a source of despair, frustration and injustice for the League of Arab States.

Past experience has demonstrated that there is one way of achieving peace, security and stability, namely to restore rights, comply with international treaties, support the role of the Security Council and the United Nations, and not to deprecate their role or violate their resolutions.

The League of Arab States, in congratulating the United Nations on its fifty-seventh anniversary, renews its support for the pivotal and prominent role played by the Organization with a view to resolving and preventing conflicts, maintaining international security and peace, promoting cooperation and dialogue between civilizations and seeking means of eliminating poverty, ignorance and disease.